

Application of: Ko-Pen Wang  
Serial No.: 10/693,646  
Filed: October 27, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of August 3, 2006

#### REMARKS

The undersigned would first like to express thanks to Examiner Apanius for discussing this application during a telephone interview on November 28, 2006. The present invention was discussed during that interview along with US Patent No. 4,966,162 and several amendments to the claims.

By way of this Response, claims 1, 3-6 and 9-13 have been amended in a manner consistent with the discussions during the above referenced interview.

Claims 1-8, 13-19 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Wang, U.S. Patent No. 4,966,162 (hereafter '162). This rejection is traversed and it is believed that the amendments distinguish the claims from the '162 reference.

Claim 1 has been amended to claim that the stylet, which is connected to the second spring section, extends through that second spring section and partially into the proximal end of the first spring section. Claim 13 has been amended to require that the elongated member extend through the proximal region of the helically wound wire member and into the distal region thereof when the elongated member is in a retracted condition.

The Examiner explained that he had been reading the conduit 218 in the '162 patent as the "stylet," which is not believed to be a correct reading, but with the claims now calling for the stylet to extend through the second spring and into the first spring such an interpretation is not possible. Further, when the needle 304 in the '162 reference is extended and stop 312 abuts hub 222, spring 302 will be fully compressed and no further compression, or no second position, will be possible as once the innermost cap is closed no further movement can occur. (See, col. 12, lines 7-17). Also, the stylet 308 is not attached to spring 304 but rather slides and moves independently thereof.

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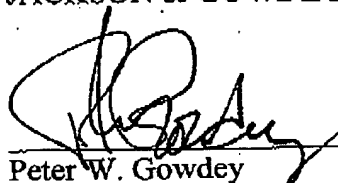
It is respectfully submitted that the claims now under examination, 1-19, 24 and 25 define patentably over the '162 patent and are in allowable condition. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

With respect to the provisional double patenting rejection of claims 13-15, it is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments now made to claim 13 there is no longer any basis to support a non-statutory double patenting rejection of claims 13-15. That provisional rejection is therefore traversed and its withdrawal is respectfully requested..

Since all of the outstanding rejections and objections have been overcome, it is believed that this application is now in allowable condition and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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